WHAT IS TO BE CLAIMED:

1. A method of treating a proliferative disease amenable to treatment by an apoptosis inducing agent in a mammal in need of such treatment which comprises co-administering a steroid in combination with an IL-6 antagonist.
2. The method according to claim 1, in which the IL-6 antagonist is an antibody or a fragment thereof.
3. The method according to claim 2, in which the antibody or fragment binds to IL6.
4. The method according to claim 3, in which the antibody fragment is an Fab, Fab', or F(ab')2 fragment or derivative thereof.
5. The method according to claim 3, in which the monoclonal antibody competes with monoclonal antibody cCLB8 for binding to human IL6.
6. The method according to claim 2, in which the monoclonal antibody is administered intravenously
7. . The method according to claim 2, in which the monoclonal antibody is administered in the amount of from 0.01 mg/kg to 12.0 mg/kg body weight.
8. The method according to claim 2, in which the monoclonal antibody is administered in a bolus dose followed by an infusion of said antibody.
9. The method according to claim 1, in which the mammal is a human patient.
10. The method according to claim 1 in which the steroid is selected from the group consisting of cortisone acetate, dexamethasone, methylprednisolone acetate, hydrocortisone, prednisone, or prednisolone.
11. The method according to claim 1, in which the proliferative disease is cancer.
12. The method of claim 11, wherein the disease is a disease selected from the group consisting of cancer metastasis, multiple myeloma, seborrheic dermatitis, acne and arthritis.
13. A method for inhibiting tumor growth in a mammal in need thereof comprising administering to the mammal in conjunction with a corticosteroid therapeutic, a monoclonal antibody or fragment thereof which prevents IL6 activation of signaling through membrane bound receptors in an amount effective to inhibit the growth of said tumor.
14. A method for preventing metastases in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal in conjunction with a corticosteroid therapeutic, a monoclonal antibody or fragment thereof which prevents IL6 activation of signaling through membrane bound receptors in an amount effective to prevent metastases in said mammal.
15. A method for treating cerebral edema in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal a corticosteroid in combination with an IL-6 antagonist in an amount effective to treat cerebral edema in said mammal.
16. A method of any of claims 1, 12, 13, 14 or 15 wherein the antibody is cCLB8 or a fragment thereof.